



Welcome

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Welcome

Were you aware that a part of your daily language is likely to be in Danish? A thousand years ago the Danish word “*Vindue*” came along with the Vikings to England. Several hundred years later it reached North America, and from there – just two to three decades ago – almost every person in the world learned to understand and pronounce this word: “*Windows*”, which etymologically means “an eye to the wind”.

As a child your career as construction professional may have started with *LEGO*, and before you went to bed, your mother told you the unforgettable fairytales of *H.C.Andersen*. You may have grown up with the delicious taste of *Lurpak* butter on your bread, and though you might find it strange that “God plays dice with the Universe”, hopefully your school teacher told you that on this topic Einstein was flat out wrong and *Niels Bohr* was right. Right now you may prefer to be sitting in the sun with a chilled *Carlsberg* beer in your hand, enjoying the iconic view of the *Sydney Opera House*. All of it is Danish made, and many things around you at home, if not made in Denmark, were probably brought to you by *Maersk*, the world’s largest shipping company, the modern Danish Viking fleet.

Though Denmark is one of the world’s smallest countries, yet it stands – along with your country – among the greatest. On top of a thousand years of outreach from Denmark, your visit to the Danes is most welcome. On your approach to Copenhagen airport you had a view to *wind turbines* harvesting green energy, you saw record breaking *bridges*, and perhaps you got a glimpse of the island Ven where the nobleman *Tycho Brahe* literally speaking changed our view of the world through perfection of astronomical observations with his naked eye. In Copenhagen you may appreciate a walk in the fairytale amusement park *TIVOLI*, and in the Copenhagen harbour you may have a rendezvous with a *Little Mermaid*.

Of all things in Denmark you will surely enjoy the conference and doctoral courses *Materials, Systems and Structures in Civil Engineering, MSSCE 2016* which are held in conjunction with the *70th annual RILEM week*. On this occasion RILEM celebrates its 70 years birthday and thus maintains generations of experience. However, new activities and the in-built diversity keep RILEM fresh and dynamic like a teenager.

The event takes place in northern Copenhagen, Lyngby, at the campus of the Technical University of Denmark, 15-29 August 2016. MSSCE 2016 aims at extending the borders of the RILEM week by including doctoral courses, by involving a palette of RILEM topics in the conference and workshop activities, and by collaborating with other scientific organizations. The insight and outlook provided by this event make it RILEM’s technical and educational activity window.

It is a pleasure to share with you what is unique to RILEM and Denmark!

Ole Mejlhede Jensen, Technical University of Denmark
Honorary president of RILEM 2016, Chairman of MSSCE 2016